THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The animals have been in contact with the animals infected with Bovine Viral Diarrhoea, Johne's Disease and Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis during the pre-export quarantine in Australia, which is against the health/quarantine requirements specified by Indian Government. Further, on arrival in India, a number of animals have tested positive for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea and Malignant Catarrhal Fever, the diseases which are not so far reported in the country.

(c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requesting for the release of the animals from the Quarantine Station, Chennai.

Crop Insurance Scheme in H.P.

334. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited by Crop Insurance Scheme in Himachal Pradesh, District-wise;

(b) whether there had been some meetings between farmers and Government during the last one year to implement the said scheme in the State, if so, what are the outcome thereof; and

(c) what are the items covered under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) District-wise list of farmers benefited by National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is annexed as Statement. (*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) NAIS covers food crops (cereals, millets and pulses), oilseeds and annual horticultural/commercial crops subject to the availability of past yield data. The crops covered under the scheme in Himachal Pradesh are wheat and barley during Rabi season and maize, rice and potato during Kharif season.

Statement

District-wise list of farmers benefited in Himachal Pradesh by National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS)

S.No.	District	Farmers Benefited
1.	Kangra	234
2.	Solan	262
3.	Bilaspur	157
4.	Una	106
5.	Mandi	27
6.	Hamirpur	48
7.	Sirmour	32
	TOTAL:	866

Unit for measuring crop loss under NAIS

335. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make provision to take panchayat as a unit for assessment of the crop loss, instead of block as a unit, as it is there now for the purpose of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS); and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir. As per the provision of the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), each participating State/UT Government is required to reach the level of Gram Panchayat as the unit of insurance in a maximum period of three years.

(b) Most of the States expressed their inability to reduce unit area of insurance to Gram Panchayat level, in view of increased